

Tue Evening
Sept 2, 1980

Dear Mom & Dad,

We just got home from a long weekend trip so I'll write while my memory is fresh. Mom's 2nd ltr was in the mail. It's nice to have such an appreciative audience! It sounds like you got my 2nd shipment of photos - about 30? I plan to start recording cassettes to send to you since a microphone came with our compact stereo. I believe you can get a simple player for not much money.

Carolyn arrived Thu morning. We drove out to Gatwick airport to pick her up. After waiting about 1 1/2 hours after her flight arrived, we were about to leave but just then she showed up. She had been in Customs because World Airways lost her luggage. She embarked in Wash. D.C. and flew on the same plane to London with a stop in Boston.

We had planned to leave on the trip Friday morning but delayed, expecting her luggage to show up. It didn't but luckily she hand-carried many items and can wear Vickie's clothes and shoes. We still don't know about the luggage because she hasn't checked yet this evening. She will stay about 2 weeks and start a new job Oct 1 with a consulting firm. We're not supposed to tell, but Tom sent her the divorce papers. (Naturally a son can't be expected to keep anything from his mother.)

Well I'm back after a delicious tomato, onion, yogurt sandwich with Greek olives and beer. We got up at 5:30 Am on Sat, ran 5 mi around Hyde Park, ate poached eggs, packed up the car, bought gas at the Navy station and headed up the A1 motorway. Rain began late in the morning and continued until evening. Finally we got off the freeway and made our way to Durham, just south of Newcastle. The rain had stopped, and 275 mi from London.

but a bitterly cold north wind was blowing. My intention was to stay at the University dormitory but it was full and we ended up at a very nice hotel - only \$85. for a large room (3 beds) with bath. Of course breakfast includes juice, cereal, eggs, toast, bacon, sausage, coffee or tea. After resting a bit we set off for the cathedral. It is an enormous (469' long by 80' wide) Norman structure begun in 1093 on the site of an earlier Saxon church. The cathedral and castle ruins sit on a high mound of an island in the river Wear and seems perched over the town. It is one of the most important architectural sights in England. The tomb of Bede, who wrote the 1st history of England in ~ 700 A.D., is in the cathedral.

After taking some pictures Sun. morning we set out to the N.W. toward the Roman Wall built by

Hadrian in ~ 125 A.D. across the 75 mi width of England to keep the "barbarian" Scots at bay. It is incredible that so much of this wall remains after so long. There are many remains of forts as well. Just think of Roman soldiers and even Emperors travelling so far to expand their territory! The day was sunny, mild, and breezy - in an area noted for its mists and fog. With boots, pack, and guide-book we climbed up on the wall, about 4' wide and up to 14' high, and started walking. We walked about 2 1/2 hours and enjoyed the spectacular views of fields, lakes, and mountains.

Next we drove N.E. along narrow, winding roads through fields, forests, and heathland across the Scottish border and back again to the seaside town of Berwick on the Tweed River. Here we stayed at our 1st B+B (bed and breakfast),

These establishments are readily available all over Britain. Ours was typical - 3 bedrooms with 1 large bathroom in the upper floors of a townhouse. The rooms were very nice and comfortable and it is just as easy to share a bathroom in a B*B as it is at home. In the morning the landlady prepared us the usual English breakfast described earlier. The cost was \$12.00 per person and is the only way to travel.

After a walking tour of the Berwick town walls we drove south to the "Holy Island", Lindisfarne, home of Benedictine monks since 635 A.D. The island is accessible by car when the ~~tide~~ tide permits and contains the ruins of the Priory and a remodelled castle. We tried fresh crab sandwiches for lunch.

Continuing south we reached our next destination, Ripon, where we got rooms in a rooming house similar to the B*B. This morning

we investigated the cathedral (yes, another "gem") and then drove 4 mi to the ruins of Fountains Abbey, founded 1132 and one of the largest and best-preserved Benedictine monasteries in England.

A very spectacular sight, the abbey roof is gone enabling one to better see the construction as ~~in the book on building cathedrals.~~

Finally, we completed a very enjoyable trip and drove the 225 mi back to London. The weather was perfect and is still fair and warm.

Carolyn is thrilled because there is a 15 mi race next Sunday. She can start seeing London tomorrow. I know she really appreciated the opportunity to go on the trip. Well, I will stop for now,

Love,
Jim